DARK HORSE COMICS

STAR WARS™

HYPERSPACE STORIES

8

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STAR WARS™

HYPERSPACE STORIES

"In the Darkness"

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This story takes place during
the Rise of the First Order.

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I WANT YOU TO SHOW THEM *STRENGTH!*

SUPREME LEADER, OUR SHIPS ARE POSITIONED ABOVE THE PLANET, VISIBLE AT ALL TIMES. WE HAVE STORMTROOPERS ON THE GROUND.

THERE'S NOT A MOMENT WHERE THE KARAXIAN PEOPLE DON'T FEEL THE PRESENCE OF THE FIRST ORD--

SILENCE!

THAT IS WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS TO SHOW STRENGTH, *GENERAL HUX?* AN ANIMAL THAT BARKS IS AN ANIMAL TOO AFRAID TO *BITE.*

AND YOU-- THE MIGHTY *KYLO REN.*

DO YOU THINK A MASK AND A MEAGER REPUTATION STRIKE TERROR INTO HEARTS ACROSS THE GALAXY?

SUPREME LEADER, I--

HUSH. YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.

PERHAPS IF WE ENFORCED *SANCTIONS* ON THE KARAXIAN PEOPLE, OR--

NO. I HAVE SOMETHING MUCH *DIFFERENT* IN MIND.

YOU WILL GO TO *KARAXIS*--BOTH OF YOU. DO NOT FORGET HOW INTEGRAL THEY ARE TO OUR PLANS.

TRAVEL THERE...

...SHOW THEM *STRENGTH.*

SUPREME LEADER, I CAN HANDLE THIS MATTER ON MY OWN. ALLOW ME TO GO WITH MY FINEST STORMTROOPERS, AND I ASSURE YOU--

DO AS I *COMMAND.*

DO *NOT* FAIL ME.

IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN BETTER ACHIEVE A RESOLUTION THAT SERVES *BOTH* OUR INTERESTS.

WE BRING THIS BACKWATER PLANET TO ORDER, AND WE GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS.

SUPREME LEADER SNOKE HAS GIVEN US A *COMMAND.* IF WE FAIL TO BRING KARAXIS FIRMLY UNDER THE *FIRST ORDER'S* CONTROL, WE--

I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU, *REN.* YOUR MERE PRESENCE MIGHT STRIKE FEAR INTO THE OTHER COMMANDING OFFICERS, BUT NOT ME.

I KNOW HOW TO BEST HANDLE THIS SITUATION. I KNOW HOW TO ACHIEVE THE RESOLUTION WE SEEK.

FINE! FINE. HAVE IT YOUR WAY. YOU TAKE THE LEAD. SEE IF YOU CAN BRING THE ENTIRE PLANET TO ITS KNEES.

BUT MARK MY WORDS, REN-- YOUR TACTICS MAY WORK ON THOSE WHO SERVE BENEATH YOU, BUT OUT *THERE,* OUT IN THE WILD GALAXY...

...YOU'RE NOT AS POWERFUL AS YOU BELIEVE.

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

KARAXIS

"I...I CANNOT...YOU MUST UNDERSTAND..."

...I CANNOT GIVE THAT ORDER.

CANNOT?

OR *WILL* NOT?

AAAAHHHHH!

ONE OF YOU *WILL* OBEY.

ONE OF YOU WILL SEE THAT THE DEMANDS OF THE FIRST ORDER ARE MET. IF YOU CONTINUE TO REFUSE, I'LL DO FAR WORSE THAN--

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR BREATH.

INTIMIDATE THESE PEOPLE, THREATEN THEM, THROW THEM ALL OUT THIS WINDOW-- THEY WILL NOT BUDGE.

NOT USING THESE METHODS.

CONTINUE TO UNDERMINE ME, GENERAL, AND IT WON'T BE A MEMBER OF THE KARAXIAN LEADERSHIP THAT SEES THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS WINDOW.

AND HOW EXACTLY WILL YOU EXPLAIN THAT TO SNOKE?

YOU THERE... *KREEN.* COME HERE.

TELL ME--THOSE CREATURES, OUT THERE IN THE DISTANCE. BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF YOUR CITY.

Y-YES?

"WHAT *ARE* THOSE?"

THOSE ARE THE *BRAMALISH.* WILD BEASTS ROAMING THE WOODS AND SUCH. OUR WALLS KEEP 'EM OUT. GOT TO--NO TELLING THE DESTRUCTION THEY'D CAUSE OTHERWISE.

INTERESTING.

VERY INTERESTING.

ENOUGH. IF NONE OF YOU CAN COMMAND YOUR PEOPLE TO ORDER, THEN WE'LL FIND THE PERSON WHO CAN.

KELVIN'S GONE. WE'VE TOLD YOU THAT ALREADY.

WE'LL NEVER-- NEVER--TELL YOU WHERE HE IS.

I KNOW...

...BUT I DON'T NEED YOU TO.

NNNNGGGGGHHHH

HE'S HIDING IN THE MOUNTAINS. HUX, STAY HERE. I DON'T NEED ANYONE GETTING IN MY WAY.

YES, PERHAPS THAT IS FOR THE BEST...

...I CAN ATTEND TO MATTERS HERE IN YOUR ABSENCE.

KELVIN MANN. YOU KNOW WHO I AM, AND YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE.

RESISTING WILL ONLY MAKE THIS MORE DIFFICULT FOR--

SNAP

VERY WELL, THEN.

YOU HAVE CHOSEN...

...POORLY.

VMMMM

FOR KARAXIS!

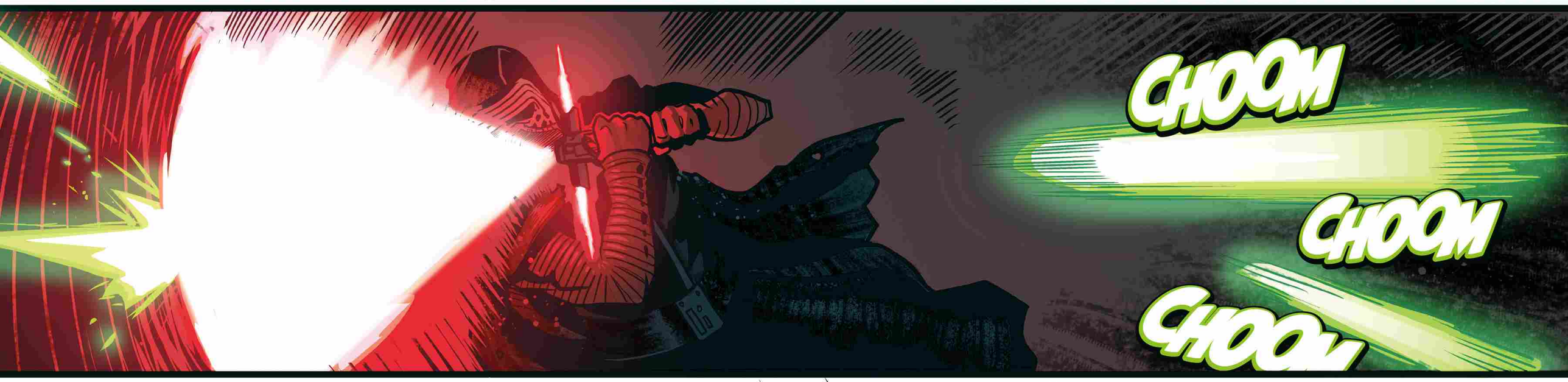
CHOOM

CHOOM

CHOOM

AAAHH!

CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM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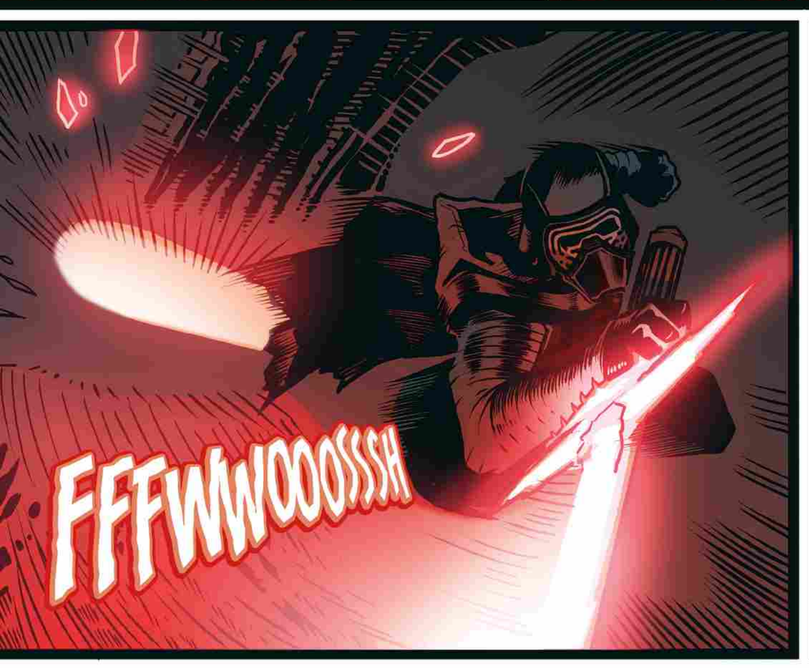

FFFWWOOOSSSH

AAAAHHH

AAAAHH

KRRK
NO!

YOU WON'T TAKE HIM! YOU WON'T TAKE ANY--

SILENCE.
I DIDN'T COME TO HARM ANY OF YOU...
...BUT I WILL IF I MUST.

YOU'RE KELVIN, I PRESUME. YOU'RE THE ONE THE PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET LISTEN TO.

MY FAMILY. PLEASE, DON'T HARM MY FAMILY.

THAT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU. YOU KNOW WHAT THE FIRST ORDER WANTS. IF YOU CONTINUE TO RESIST US, WE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO--

WAIT.

SOMETHING... I FEEL...THERE'S *SOMETHING*...

PLEASE... ***PLEASE.*** WE'LL DO WHATEVER YOU ASK, JUST PLEASE--

WHICH ONE OF YOU IS IT?!

WHICH ONE OF YOU IS POWERFUL WITH THE *FORCE?*

I...I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!

VMMMM

WHAT?! NONE OF US! IS THAT EVEN REAL?

DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME. YOU WILL TELL ME.

YOU WILL TELL ME...

NNNGGGGGNNN

SO, YOU'RE TELLING THE *TRUTH.*

IF NONE OF YOU ARE STRONG WITH THE FORCE, THEN IT MUST BE... IT MUST BE THIS PLACE.

OR MAYBE... NOT A PLACE, BUT--

...PLEASE...

BOOOM

HUX.

GRRRAAAWWW

"WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!"

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

IN THE SIMPLEST TERMS? I'VE BEGUN THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS.

LET ME MAKE ONE THING CLEAR...

"...MY STORMTROOPERS ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN TAME THIS BEAST BEFORE IT DECIMATES YOUR ENTIRE OPERATION."

"THE QUESTION YOU MUST ASK YOURSELF, CAMPO, IS IF YOU WISH TO LOSE *EVERYTHING* YOU HAVE..."

...OR JUST A PORTION OF IT TO THE FIRST ORDER?

I... I...

GGRRRAAAA

AAAAAHHH!

FIRE! FIRE!

CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM

NOOOO!

RRRAAAHH

YOU FOOL! YOU CAN'T CONTAIN THE *BRAMALISH*-- THEY'RE WILD *BEASTS!*

IT'S GOING TO DESTROY *EVERYTHING!*

WE'LL BOTH BE RUINED!

NO...

NO.

COMMANDER! HAVE YOUR TROOPS CONCENTRATE FIRE *FORWARD!* WE HAVE TO DRIVE THIS BEAST *OUT.*

WE'RE TRYING, SIR! BUT THIS THING, IT'S NOT RESPONDING TO--

WELL, THEN...

...SO BE IT.

RRRAAARR

WHAT...

RRRAAAAAAA

GENERAL HUX.

I HOPE THIS ISN'T YOUR DOING.

IT WAS A SOUND STRATEGY. CREATE CHAOS AND FORCE THE KARAXIANS INTO A SETTLEMENT.

YOU CERTAINLY ACCOMPLISHED THE FIRST PART OF YOUR *STRATEGY.*

FFFWWOOMM

GGRRRAAAAA

WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE!

ASSIST HIM!

FFFWWOOMM

YOU HEARD THE GENERAL-- FIRE!

CHOOM

CHOOM

CHOOM

CHOOM

CHOOM

FFWWOOMM

GGRRRAAA

CHOOM

CHOOM

NOW, AS FOR KARAXIS STRIKING A DEAL WITH THE FIRST ORDER.

I... I CAN'T. I--

YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU CAN'T.

BUT *HE* CAN.

AND HE *WILL*.

VERY GOOD. WE'LL NOW CONSIDER THE PLANET KARAXIS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE FIRST ORDER. WHAT WE ASK FOR, YOU SUPPLY. NO QUESTIONS ASKED, NO HESITATION.

FAIL TO MEET THESE TERMS, GENTLEMEN, AND WE WILL RETURN.

AND YOU WOULDN'T WANT THAT, WOULD YOU?

NO...NO, WE WOULDN'T. WE'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY.

"TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS...*PRESENCE*."

I'M UNCERTAIN, SUPREME LEADER. I FELT THE FORCE--OR MAYBE JUST AN ECHO OF IT. BUT IT WASN'T IN A PERSON.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE PLACE.

YES. IT COULD HAVE BEEN.

OR IT COULD HAVE BEEN A *THING.*

YOU'LL FIND EVEN OBJECTS CAN BE TOUCHED BY THE FORCE. IT'S UP TO *YOU* TO SEE THEM MORE CLEARLY.

THE FACT YOU COULDN'T TELLS ME JUST HOW *UNDISCIPLINED* YOU ARE.

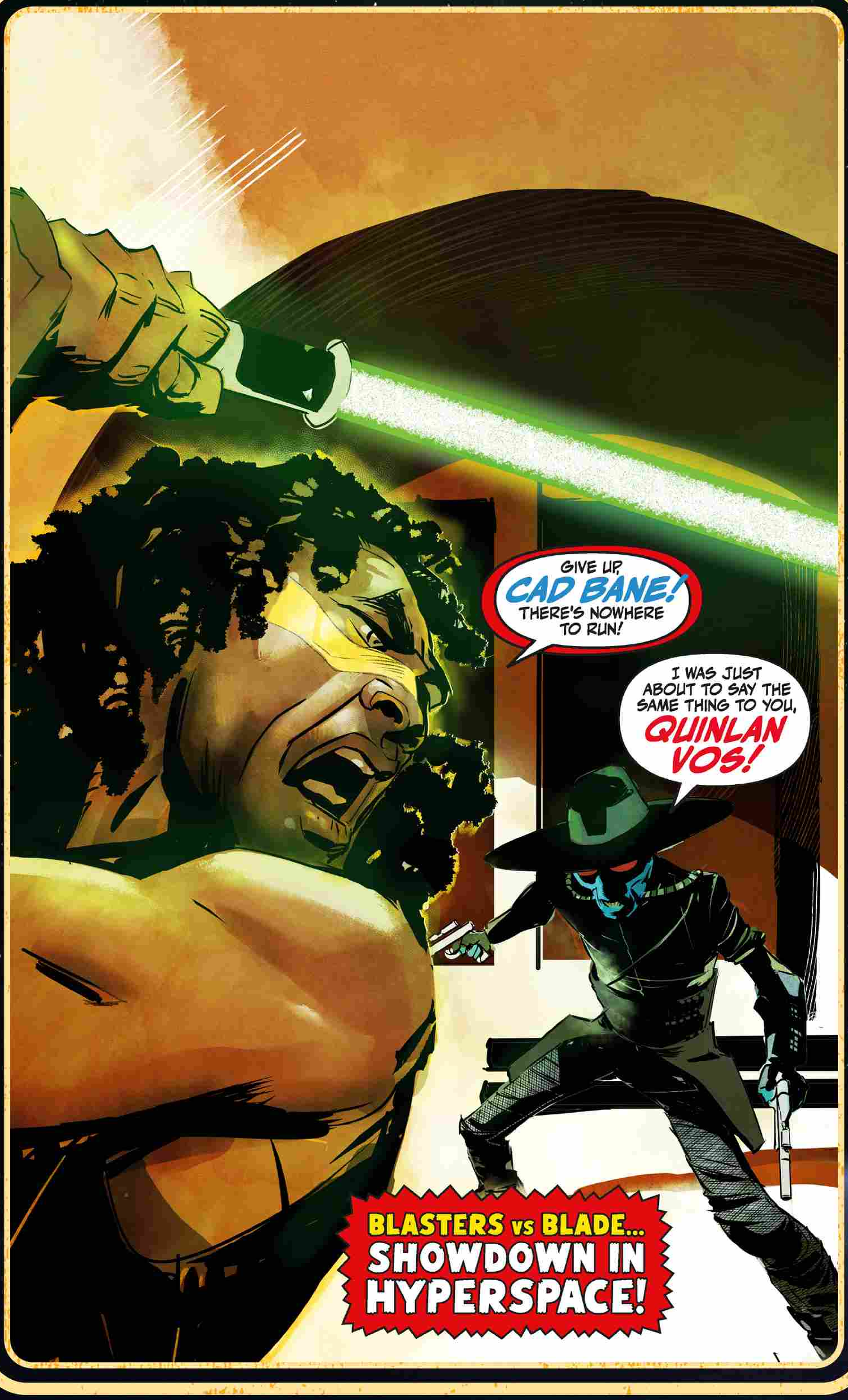
YES, SUPREME LEADER.

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY, KYLO REN. YOUR TRAINING IS FAR FROM COMPLETE.

THIS WILL NOT BE YOUR LAST ENCOUNTER WITH THE FORCE, OR THE LIGHT IT BRINGS. IT'LL BE YOUR DUTY TO FIND THIS LIGHT, ALL OF IT...

...AND *SNUFF* IT OUT.

THE END


GIVE UP, CAD BANE! THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN!
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY THE SAME THING TO YOU, QUINLAN VOS!
BLASTERS vs BLADE... SHOWDOWN IN HYPERSPACE!

COMING SEPTEMBER 27TH!